

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 and 14 - 22 remain in this application for examination, claim 13 having been withdrawn from consideration.

Specification

Applicants have canceled the initial Abstract and substituted the attached Abstract of the Disclosure which is in the range of 50 to 150 words and avoids legal phraseology.

Arrangement of the Specification

Applicants appreciate the suggestion that this application utilize section headings, however, the only section heading which is required under the rules is "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS". Applicants have added this section heading, but prefer not to add other section headings in that such headings might adversely affect claim interpretation.

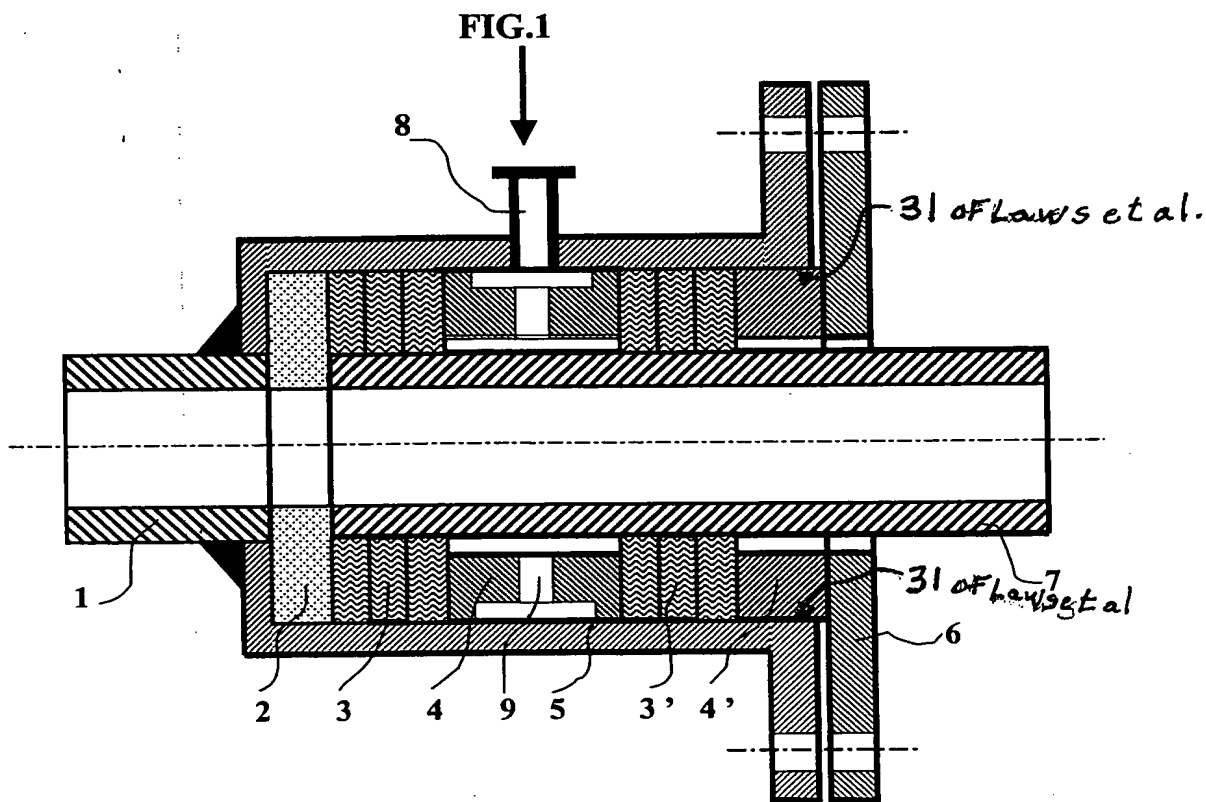
Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1 - 12 and 14 - 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by Laws et al. '894. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order for a rejection to be sustainable under 35 U.S.C §102 it is necessary that all limitations of a claim occur in a single reference. Laws et al. '894 fails to teach the following limitation of claim 1:

an injector arrangement (8) for injection of a fluid between the two sets of sealing fixtures (3, 3') so as to apply a pressure differential that is determined on each of the sealing fixtures (3, 3').

The Office Action states that the location (31) of Laws et al. '894 corresponds to Applicants' claimed "means for injection (8)" amended to read "an injector arrangement (8)." At column 2, lines 5 - 8 of Laws et al. /894 defines the location (31) as a bore or hole (31) in the monolithic refractory block (12)." Applicants respectfully disagree with this analogy because the bore or hole (31) of Laws et al. '849 corresponds to the hole in Applicants "cylindrical metal chamber or sleeve (5)" shown in Figure 1 below:



The opening in sleeve (5) is clearly the claimed cylindrical metal chamber in which one end of the ceramic tube (7) is placed, which chamber also receives the sealing fixtures (3, 3') and the cross piece (4). In neither Applicants' claimed invention nor Laws et al. '894 is there a disclosure of an axial opening extending inside a cylindrical chamber,

such as the chamber (5) of Applicant or the refractor block (12) of Laws et al, for injection of a fluid between two sets of sealing features so as to apply a pressure differential that is determined on each of the sealing fixtures. Since the opening (31) of Laws et al. corresponds to the cylindrical chamber of Applicants, Laws et al. '894 can have no structure corresponding to Applicants' claimed injector arrangement (8) wherein a fluid is directed between the two sets of sealing fixtures (3, 3'). Applicants' fluid injection (8) is possible because fluid is injected radially so as to enter an area between the sets of sealing fixtures (3, 3') which is necessarily the space defined by the cross piece (4) that is interposed between the two sets of sealing fixtures. Considering Laws et al. '894, it is clear if pressurized fluid were introduced in the bore or hole (31), the seal (35) would expand radially and interfere with fluid entering the area where the seal (36) is positioned. Accordingly, if fluid were injected in the hole or bore (31) of Laws et al. '894, the fluid could not fulfill the limitation of being between the two sets of sealing fixtures (35) and (37). For these reasons, Laws et al. '894 do not anticipate claim 1 because Laws et al. have no structure corresponding to the injector (8) as claimed in Applicants claim 1 and as disclosed in Figures 1 and 2.

Since claims 2 - 12 and 14 - 19 depend from claim 1, these claims further limit claim 1 and therefore distinguish over Laws et al. '894 for the same reasons as claim 1 distinguishes.

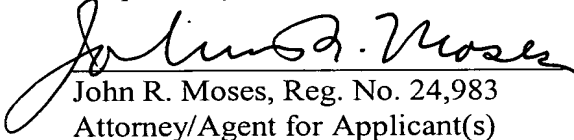
With respect to new claim 20, claim 20 recites "an inlet port(8) for injection of a fluid between two sets of sealing features." Claim 20 is therefore not anticipated by Laws et al. '894 for the same reasons claim 1 is not anticipated.

New dependent claims 21 and 22 are directed to the concept of a compression means which applies longitudinal pressure against one set of the sealing fixtures (3'), which longitudinal pressure is transmitted by the cross piece (4) that applies longitudinal pressure against the other set of sealing fixtures which compress with respect to the housing (5). This structure is clearly illustrated in Applicants' Figures 1, 2, 4 and 6 and distinguish over Laws et al. for the same reasons that claim 1 distinguishes.

In that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action of June 9, 2006, this application is in complete condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a personal conference with Applicants' attorneys might expedite prosecution, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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